

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/712,127

Examiner

Sherman D. Basinger

Applicant(s)

BOATMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed July 19, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,6-15,20 and 21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 1/26/04; 2/1/05; 5/12/05 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

On page 7 of the substitute specification filed May 12, 2005, which has been entered, line 27, "2004/0094082" has been changed to -2004/0025772-.

On page 8 of the substitute specification filed May 12, 2005, which has been entered, line 3, "2004/0094082" has been changed to -2004/0025772-.

Note that the substitute page of the specification filed July 19, 2005 has not been entered because it fails to comply with the revised amendment practice effective July of 2003.

In claim 15, line 18 "body (1)" has been changed to -vessel (1)-.

In claim 15, line 19 "said tension member" and "said connector" have been changed to -a tension member- and -a connector- respectively.

In claim 15, line 21 "a tension member" has been changed to -said tension member-.

In claim 15, lines 22 and 23 "a connector" has been changed to -said connector-.

In claim 20, line 18 "body (1)" has been changed to -vessel (1)-.

In claim 20, line 19 "said tension member" and "said connector" have been changed to –a tension member- and –a connector- respectively.

In claim 20, line 21 "a tension member" has been changed to –said tension member-.

In claim 20, lines 22 and 23 "a connector" has been changed to –said connector-.

In claim 21, line 18 "body (1)" has been changed to –vessel (1)-.

In claim 21, line 19 "said tension member" and "said connector" have been changed to –a tension member- and –a connector- respectively.

In claim 21, line 21 "a tension member" has been changed to –said tension member-.

In claim 21, lines 22 and 23 "a connector" has been changed to –said connector-.

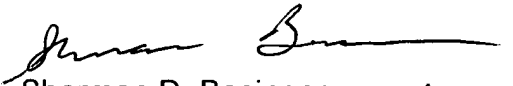
The above changes to claims 15, 20 and 21 correct inadvertent errors in the claims in that a "a vessel (1)" is claimed in the preamble of each claim as opposed to "a body (1)" and in that in line 19 of each claim "said tension member" and "said connector" are claimed before each is defined in lines 21-23 of each claim.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sherman D. Basinger whose telephone number is 571-272-6679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel J. Morano can be reached on 571-272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Sherman D. Basinger  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3617

7/28/05

7/28/05

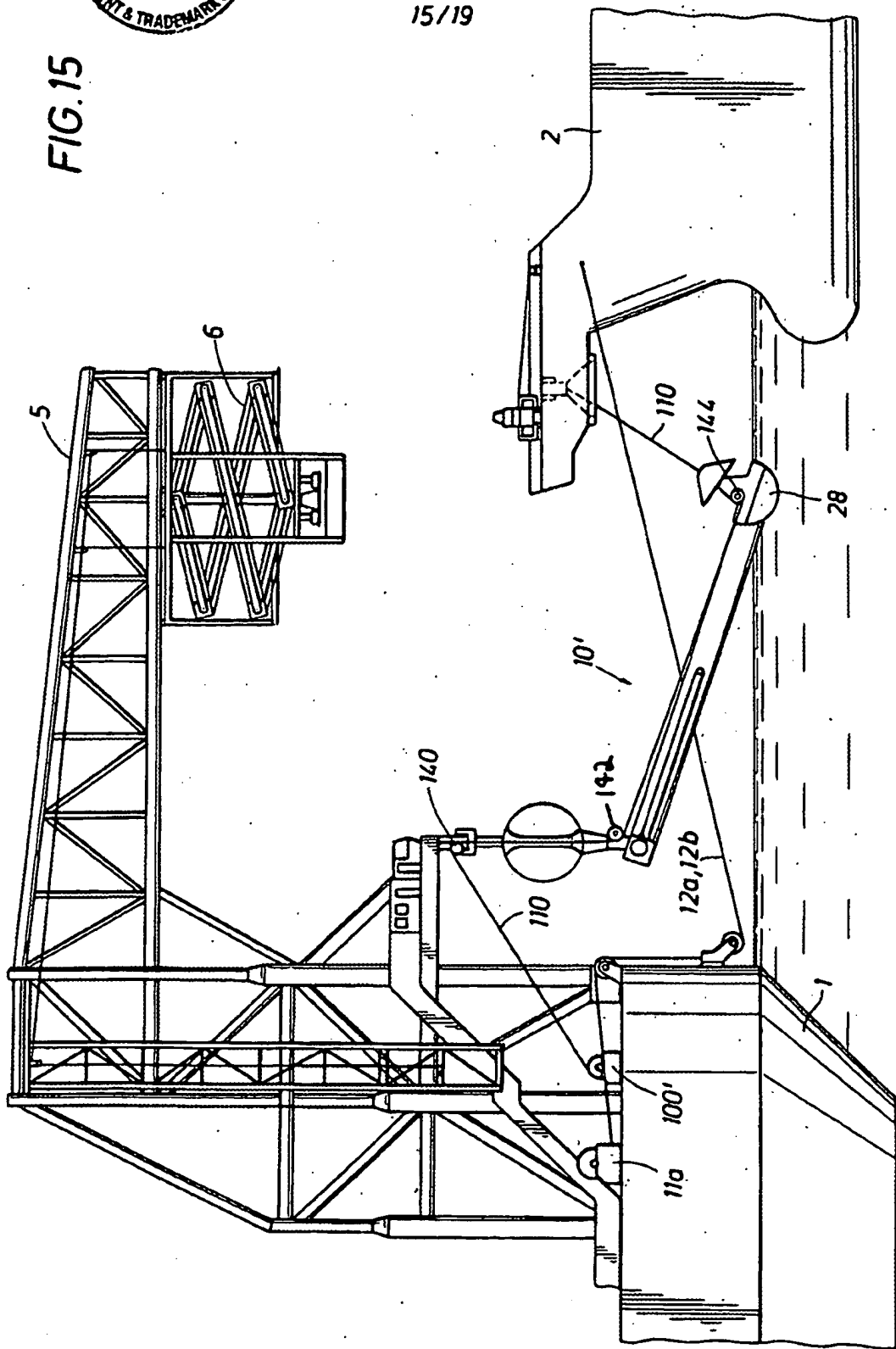


REPLACEMENT SHEET

15/19

FIG. 15

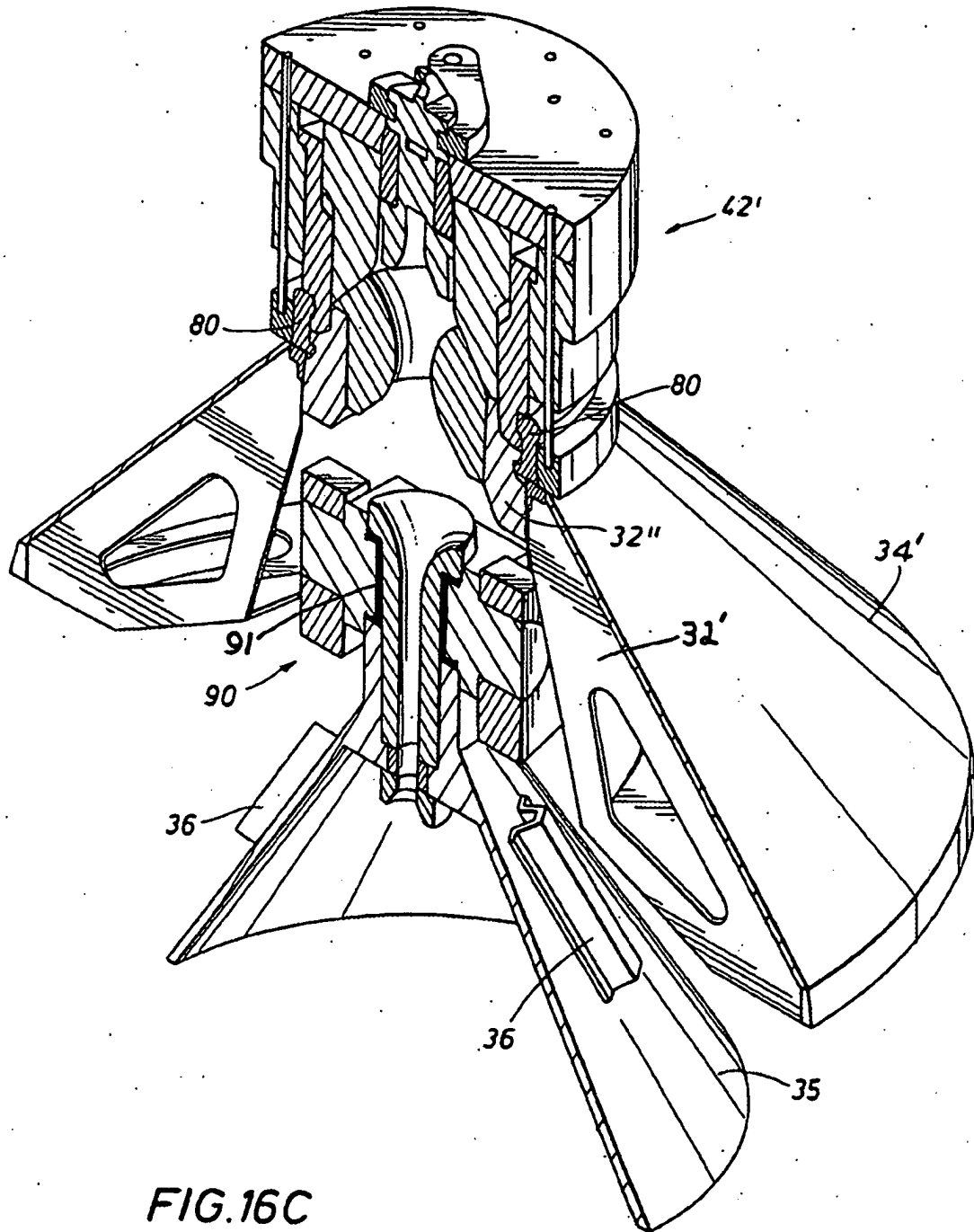
*approved  
by  
3/24/05*



# REPLACEMENT SHEET

17/19

*approach  
93  
of 105*



REPLACEMENT SHEET



*approved*  
*9/3*  
*SP/105*

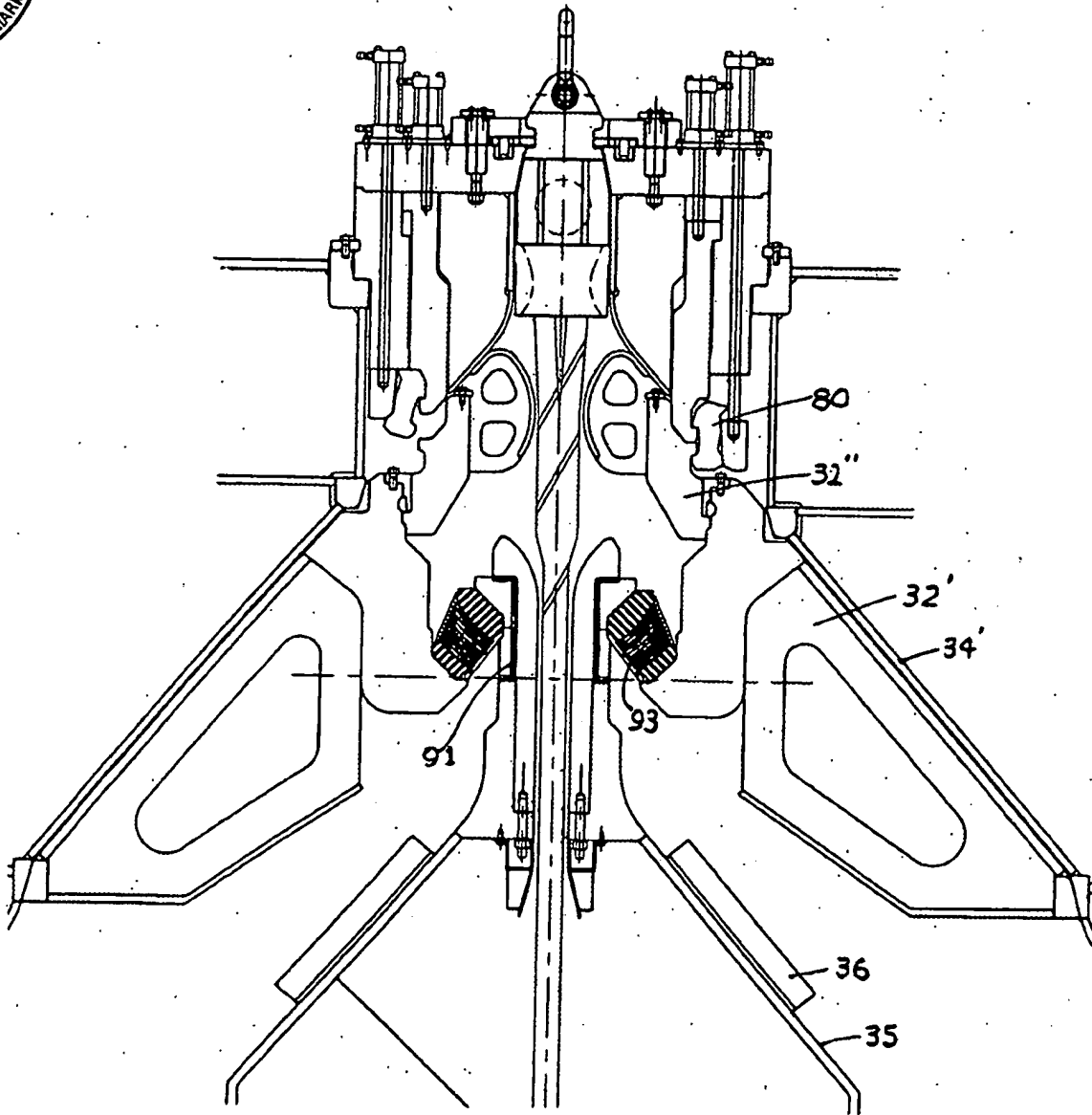


FIG. 16D